REDISTRICTING COMMISSION FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 31, 2011, 7th Floor Council Hearing Room, 7:10 pm to 9:10 pm

PRESENT

Commissioners: Jason Tai, Chair; Lee Annis; Cherri Branson; Henry Kahwaty; Carmen Larsen; Jacqueline Phillips; Jonathan Shurberg; Don Spence; Patti Jo Witham

Staff: Erin Ashbarry, County Attorney's Office; Pamela Zorich, M-NCPPC; Margaret Jurgensen, Board of Elections; Jeff Zyontz and Susan Mabie, Council Staff

Public Observers: Elaine Apter and Barbara Hankins (League of Women Voters); Dale Tibbitts (Councilmember Elrich's Staff)

Agenda:
1) Presentation by Margaret Jurgensen (Board of Elections Director - operational issues)
2) Presentation by Erin Ashbarry (County Attorney's Office) on Election Law including the Voting Rights Act (can be found at the following link):
   http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/redistricting/Handouts/2011-03-31_legal_roadmap_redistricting.pdf.
   Ms. Ashbarry's memorandum can be accessed at:
   http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/redistricting/Handouts/legal_issues_in_redistricting.pdf.
3) Establish ground rules for drawing district lines
4) Establish next meeting date – and software training session date
5) Public Comment time

Action:
1) Future meetings will begin with the approval of minutes (February 17 minutes will be emailed to Commissioners and added to next month's agenda for approval).
2) Districts developed by the Commission will satisfy legal requirements (substantially equal in population, compact, and contiguous).
3) The initial building blocks for developing Council Districts will be the 2010 election precincts.

Requests:
1) A list of available 2010 population census data with racial and ethnic breaks
2) Lists and maps (areas to be identifiable in the redistricting software) of:
   Municipalities
   Special Taxing Districts
   Census-designated places (i.e., unincorporated)
   Population Forecasting Area
3) Data by precincts for use with the redistricting software:
   Census data with race and ethnic totals as condensed by staff
   Total voting registration and totals for major political parties
4) A suggestion was made to invite someone from the State legislature to interface with us regarding school board districts.

Next Meetings: April 28, 2011, 7:00 pm –introduction to redistricting software tools
                      May 19, 2011, 7:00 pm – agenda to be determined at a later date